

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 329

To assist the Neighborhood Watch program to empower communities and citizens to enhance awareness about threats from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and encourage local communities to better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 6, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To assist the Neighborhood Watch program to empower communities and citizens to enhance awareness about threats from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and encourage local communities to better prepare to respond to terrorist attacks.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Neighborhood Security  
5       Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ings:

4 (1) National Neighborhood Watch was created  
5 by the National Sheriffs Association in 1972  
6 through funding provided by the Law Enforcement  
7 Assistance Administration.

8 (2) Neighborhood Watch is a voluntary pro-  
9 gram that supports local efforts to safeguard com-  
10 munities.

11 (3) A national registry of Neighborhood Watch  
12 units does not exist.

13 (4) On January 30, 2002, President Bush an-  
14 nounced the creation of Citizen Corps. Beginning in  
15 September 2002, in cooperation of the National  
16 Sheriffs Association, Citizen Corps has aimed to en-  
17 courage citizens to form Neighborhood Watch  
18 groups in their local communities to bolster home-  
19 land security.

20 (5) Citizens in local communities should be en-  
21 couraged and empowered to engage in homeland se-  
22 curity activities to reduce the threat to homeland se-  
23 curity from terrorism.

24 (6) The Nation's homeland security system  
25 should do as much as possible to—

1 (A) encourage the creation of, and partici-  
2 pation in, high-quality Neighborhood Watch  
3 programs in local communities;

4 (B) disseminate information about home-  
5 land security efforts; and

6 (C) educate citizens on how to prevent,  
7 and respond to, possible terrorist attacks.

8 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-  
9 lows:

10 (1) To provide each community in each city,  
11 suburb, and small town within the United States  
12 with the opportunity to establish an effective Neigh-  
13 borhood Watch in which all community members  
14 have the opportunity to participate.

15 (2) To create 50,000 new Neighborhood Watch-  
16 es by the end of 2007.

17 (3) To enhance the quality of existing Neigh-  
18 borhood Watches.

19 **SEC. 3. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GRANTS.**

20 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General,  
22 through the Office of Justice Programs, is author-  
23 ized to award 1 or more grants to eligible entities  
24 to develop and improve Neighborhood Watches  
25 throughout the Nation.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Nonprofit organiza-  
2           tions and professional associations are eligible to re-  
3           ceive grants under this section.

4           (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded pursuant to  
5           subsection (a) shall be used to—

6                 (1) complete a survey of Neighborhood Watches  
7                 that identifies such programs by ZIP code;

8                 (2) establish a national registry of Neighbor-  
9                 hood Watch leaders, with appropriate contact infor-  
10                mation;

11                (3) through the survey under paragraph (1),  
12                identify best practices and model programs among  
13                Neighborhood Watches for—

14                         (A) educating community members with  
15                         respect to the prevention of terrorism and  
16                         crime;

17                         (B) preventing or assisting with the pre-  
18                         vention of terrorism and crime;

19                         (C) appropriately responding to terrorism  
20                         and crime; and

21                         (D) achieving broad community involve-  
22                         ment in activities under subparagraphs (A)  
23                         through (C);

1           (4) using the best practices identified in para-  
2       graph (3), create a manual for communities seeking  
3       to—

4                   (A) establish a new Neighborhood Watch;  
5               or

6                   (B) improve an existing Neighborhood  
7       Watch; and

8           (5) engage in outreach and respond to inquiries  
9       in order to disseminate information about—

10                   (A) the benefits of effective Neighborhood  
11       Watches;

12                   (B) the means to establish new Neighbor-  
13       hood Watches; and

14                   (C) the means to improve existing Neigh-  
15       borhood Watches.

16       (6) In response to an appropriate request to  
17       create a Neighborhood Watch, the grantee shall pro-  
18       vide a Neighborhood Watch start-up kit which in-  
19       cludes material useful for a Neighborhood Watch  
20       that is identified by the grantee.

21       (c) APPLICATION.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring  
23       a grant under this section shall submit an applica-  
24       tion to the Attorney General at such time, in such

1 manner, and accompanied by such information as  
2 the Attorney General may reasonably require.

3 (2) CRITERIA.—Applicants for grants under  
4 this section shall be selected based on—

5 (A) the applicant’s ability to carry out the  
6 activities described in subsection (b);

7 (B) the applicant’s experience coordinating  
8 Neighborhood Watches;

9 (C) adequate consultation with state and  
10 local law enforcement; and

11 (D) and other criteria, as determined by  
12 the Attorney General.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000  
15 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as are necessary for  
16 fiscal years 2005 through 2008 to carry out this Act and  
17 the amendments made by this Act.

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